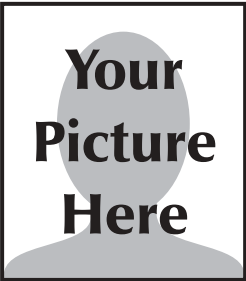


# Meet the RAB

Seeking additional community RAB members



This section of the newsletter is traditionally dedicated to introducing a member of the Beale AFB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). This quarter we wanted to highlight your potential role as a RAB member. New members are encouraged to apply.

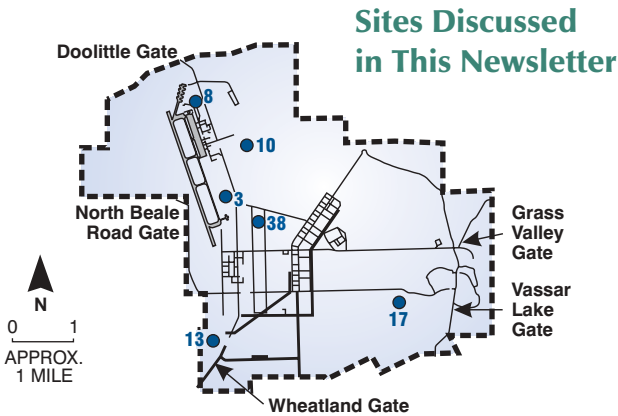
The purpose of the RAB is to facilitate public participation in the environmental restoration activities at Beale AFB. The RAB is a forum through which our local communities, the Air Force, and regulatory agencies work together in an atmosphere that encourages discussion and exchange of information on the environmental cleanup program.

No experience or expertise is required. The RAB is an advisory board, not a voting body. Community RAB members generally represent community groups or are residents. They are encouraged to share information from Board meetings with the community and bring the community's questions or concerns to the RAB.

The commitment includes attending five Board meetings a year. RAB members are also encouraged to tour restoration sites on the base twice each year.

To apply for RAB membership, please contact Mike O'Brien, Chief of Environmental Restoration at Beale AFB, by fax at (530) 634-2845 or mail at 9CES/CEVR 6601 B Street, Beale AFB, CA 95903.

Consider attending the August 18 RAB meeting to find out more. All RAB meetings are open to the public. ✕



## The Beale AFB Information Repository

is located at the  
**Yuba County Library**  
303 Second Street, Marysville

Call (530) 740-7380 for hours

The information repository provides the public access to documents related to the investigation and cleanup of environmental concerns.

## Restoration Advisory Board Meeting/Open to Public

**Thursday, August 18, 2005**  
**6-8 p.m.**

The meeting will be held at  
**One Stop Center for Business and Workforce Development,**  
1114 Yuba Street, Marysville

## UPCOMING EVENTS



# Environmental Cleanup Program

ISSUE 29 - JULY 2005

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER REPORTING ON CLEANUP AT BEALE AFB

## Water Board officials visit Beale AFB

Senior staff from California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) visited Beale AFB on June 6. This group consisted of Regional Department of Defense Facility Managers from RWQCB involved in cleanup efforts at military facilities across the State. Group members meet and together visit military sites twice a year to help achieve consistency in applying regulations statewide.

The group visited eight cleanup projects at Beale AFB. The projects illustrate the diversity of cleanup methods in use at Beale AFB and the unique challenges the Air Force faces, such as cleaning up groundwater in an active runway area. More notably, the projects illustrate the results of the successful relationship between Beale's Environmental Restoration Program and regulatory agencies.



The group visited Site 10, a research site where SR-71 engines were tested. The site has one of California's first full-scale enhanced bioremediation cleanup systems for groundwater. The system uses a series of wells to inject nutrients that encourage the growth of naturally occurring microbes that break down contaminants into non-toxic by-products.



"We've been able to implement creative, cost-effective solutions because we've developed relationships that enable us to work through the tough spots to create win-win solutions," says Mike O'Brien, Chief of Environmental Restoration at Beale AFB, adding, "I'm always proud to show off the work the Environmental Flight has accomplished in partnership with regulatory agencies."

The purpose of the RWQCB is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources. Their website is [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov). ✕



(Above) RWQCB Military Facility Managers visit cleanup projects as part of their effort to achieve consistency in applying regulations at military facilities across the State. (Right) One of the projects the group visited at Beale AFB was Site 17, Best Slough, where the design for cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater also protects surface water and enhances habitat.



# June RAB Tour

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members didn't let rain interfere with their June 16 tour of three restoration projects at Beale AFB.

Bus tours of cleanup sites are conducted for RAB members several times each year. To learn more about the RAB and how you can participate, see "Meet the RAB" article on the back page of this newsletter.



## The removal action process

In the removal action process, the Air Force publishes a document called an *engineering evaluation/cost analysis* or EE/CA. An EE/CA is similar to a feasibility study in that it identifies potential cleanup options and evaluates the options based on

feasibility, effectiveness, and cost. The EE/CA and its recommended cleanup method are reviewed by State regulatory agencies before being presented to the public for a 30-day comment period.

The Air Force responds to all comments in a document called an *action memorandum*, which describes the remedy selected after considering comments. The action memorandum is signed by representatives of the Air Force and the California Environmental Protection Agency.

After a removal action has been conducted, the site is still subject to the remainder of the cleanup process.

## Public comment periods will precede removal actions at Sites 3 and 38

Beale AFB proposes conducting two removal actions this fall—one at Site 3, the Former Fire Protection Area, the other at Site 38, the Former Skeet Range. Removal actions are used to quickly reduce the potential for exposure to contaminants.

"At some sites we learn enough at the inspection stage to recognize an opportunity to immediately improve site conditions," explains Mike O'Brien, Chief of Environmental Restoration at Beale AFB.

The flow chart and side bar explain how removal actions fit into the overall cleanup process. This summer, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the cleanup methods proposed for Sites 3 and 38.

The Former Fire Protection Area (Site 3) was used to train firefighters. In the areas where training occurred, some soil has been contaminated with lead and dioxins. Also, water used to extinguish training fires carried some residue to nearby drainages. About 1,500 cubic yards of soil will be excavated in the proposed

removal action at Site 3.

At the Former Skeet Range (Site 38), some areas of soil have been contaminated by lead shot and clay pigeons. The clay pigeons were made of clay and coal tar. The Air Force proposes excavating approximately 4,500 cubic yards of soil at the site.

Soil excavated from Sites 3 and 38 will be transported to a landfill licensed to accept the waste. Soil samples will be collected from the excavation floors and sidewalls to confirm contaminants have been removed. The excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil from a pond used to store treated wastewater. Soil excavated from the same pond was used to cover a former landfill (Site 13) last summer. Soil from the pond was sampled during the Site 13 effort and approved by regulatory agencies for use as backfill. The Air Force wants to conduct the removal actions this year before the rainy season begins.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board are currently reviewing the proposed removal actions. The next step will be to make the plans available for public review and comment. Public comment periods are announced in the *Appeal-Democrat* and notices are mailed to addresses on the Environmental Restoration Program mailing list. If you receive this newsletter in the mail, you are on the mailing list. To have your name added to the mailing list, please call Mike O'Brien at (530) 634-3856/3857.

A nearby pond that stores treated wastewater will provide the soil to backfill the excavated areas at Sites 3 and 38. This approach avoids the cost of purchasing and transporting fill material and increases the storage capacity of the pond. Water from the pond is used for landscape irrigation. The pond will be drained in time to make the soil available by the end of summer.

### PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/ SITE INSPECTION

- Records search
- Data review

### REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

- Evaluate nature and extent of contamination
- Evaluate potential risks

### FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Develop, screen, and evaluate cleanup options
- Propose cleanup levels

### PROPOSED PLAN

- Present preferred remedy
- Public comment

### RECORD OF DECISION

- Select remedy
- Set cleanup levels

### REMEDIAL DESIGN/ REMEDIAL ACTION

- Design and construct remedy
- Long-term operation and maintenance

### PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REVIEW PERIOD

- Monitor site for a specified time to ensure remedy is successful

The cleanup process followed by Beale AFB requires public comment periods at key milestones.

The Air Force proposes excavating soil from Sites 3 and 38. The sites are currently unused.



Using the removal action process, Beale AFB was able to install two cleanup systems at the Former J-57 Engine Test Cell (Site 8) earlier this year. Those systems are preventing contaminants from reaching groundwater, where they would be more difficult and costly to remove.

